

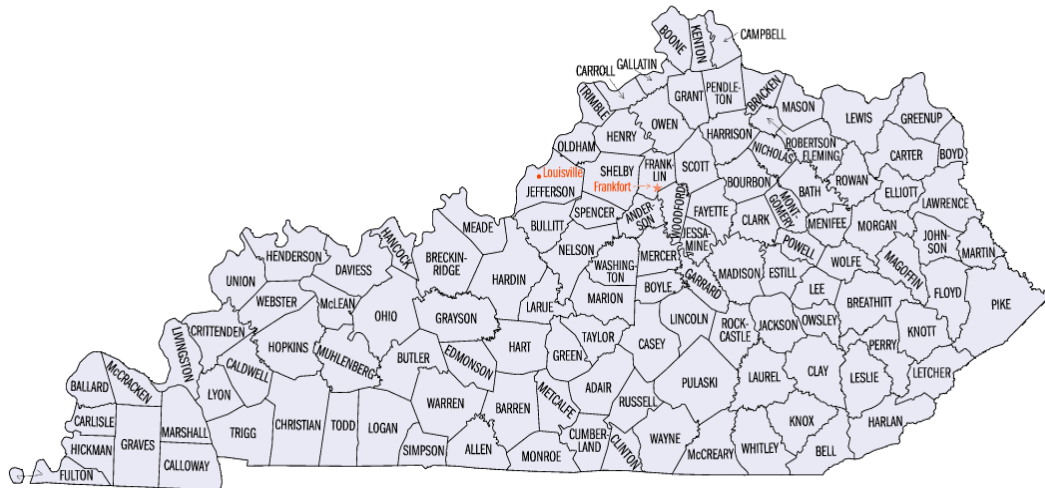
Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

State of Kentucky

Profile of Drug Indicators

August 2003



ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

Kentucky

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, funding, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

Demographics¹

- Population: 4,092,891 (2002 estimate); 4,041,769 (2000 Census)
- Race/Ethnicity (2000 Census): 89.3% white; 7.3% black/African American; 0.2% American Indian/Alaskan Native; 0.7% Asian; 0.0% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 0.1% other race; 0.9% two or more races; 1.5% Hispanic/Latino origin

Politics

- Governor: Paul E. Patton²
- Lt. Governor: Stephen L. Henry, M.D.³
- Attorney General: A.B. “Ben” Chandler III⁴
- Secretary of State: John Y. Brown III⁵
- U.S. Senate: Jim Bunning (R), Mitch McConnell (R)⁶
- U.S. House of Representatives: Edward Whitfield (R), Ron Lewis (R), Anne Northup (R), Ken Lucas (D), Harold Rogers (R), Ernie Lee Fletcher (R)⁷
- Capital: Frankfort⁸

Programs/Initiatives

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)⁹
Designated in 1998, the Appalachia HIDTA is responsible for counties in Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia, three of the five states known as the Marijuana Belt. The Kentucky counties involved in Appalachia HIDTA efforts are Adair, Bell, Breathitt, Clay, Clinton, Cumberland, Floyd, Harlan, Jackson, Knott, Knox, Laurel, Lee, Leslie, McCreary, Magoffin, Marion, Monroe, Owsley, Perry, Pike, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Taylor, Wayne, and Whitley.
- Champions for a Drug-Free Kentucky¹⁰
The mission of this program is to promote the prevention of violence as well as alcohol, tobacco and other drug abuse in Kentucky communities.
- Early Intervention Program¹¹
The Early Intervention Program provides intervention and intensive prevention education programs for youths at high risk for substance abuse. Targeted youth are seen by court workers due to their involvement in activities resulting in legal charges for substance abuse or violence and are eligible for court diversion through participation in the program.

Federal Funding

- Drug-Free Communities Support Program grantees in Kentucky:¹²
 - FY 2002:
 - \$97,124 to County-Wide Action Reach Out Effort/Henry County CARE Team, Eminence
 - \$100,000 to Oldham County Health Department/Challengers of Oldham County, LaGrange

- \$99,927 to Taylor County Board of Education/Campbellsville-Taylor County Anti-Drug Coalition, Campbellsville
- \$100,000 to Corbin Incentive Project/Corbin Community Coalition, Corbin
- \$100,000 to Green River District Health Department/Together We Care, Owensboro
- \$100,000 to Marion County Heartland Coalition, Lebanon
- FY 2001:
 - \$93,000 to Hendersonians Offering a Promising Environment, Henderson
 - \$100,000 to the Mayor's Alliance on Substance Abuse, Lexington
 - \$100,000 to Boyd and Greenup County Champions for a Drug-Free Kentucky, Ashland
- FY 2000:
 - \$100,000 to Youth Empowerment Services Coalition, Albany
 - \$98,976 to People Encouraging People Coalition, Beattyville
 - \$100,000 to Covington Community Partners for Youth Substance Abuse Prevention, Covington
- FY 1999:
 - \$99,446 to Mercer County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition, Harrodsburg
- FY 1998:
 - \$97,101 to Bluegrass Regional Mental Health/Mental Health Retardation Board, Inc., Lexington
- Executive Office for Weed and Seed¹³

The Smoketown/Shelby Park section of Louisville is the only site in Kentucky to receive official recognition and Federal funding as a Weed and Seed site.
- FY 2002/2003 SAMHSA Formula and Discretionary Grant Summary for Kentucky:¹⁴
 - Formula Funding - \$27,307,804
 - Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant - \$20,752,134
 - Community Mental Health Services Block Grant - \$5,855,670
 - Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) - \$300,000
 - Protection and Advocacy Formula Grant - \$400,000
 - Discretionary Funding - \$6,385,592
 - Mental Health - \$1,905,744
 - Substance Prevention - \$1,015,297
 - Substance Abuse Treatment - \$3,464,551
 - Total Mental Health Funds: \$8,461,414
 - Total Substance Abuse Funds: \$25,231,982
 - Total Funds for Kentucky: \$33,693,396
- FY 2003 Byrne Formula Grant Program amount awarded to Kentucky: \$7,098,952¹⁵
- FY 1996-2003 Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) for State Prisoners Formula Grant amount allocated to Kentucky:
 - FY 1996: \$328,947¹⁶
 - FY 1997: \$368,599¹⁷
 - FY 1998: \$815,960¹⁸
 - FY 1999: \$818,459¹⁹
 - FY 2000: \$794,440²⁰

- FY 2001: \$793,674²¹
- FY 2002: \$871,608²²
- FY 2003: \$825,433²³
- FY 2002 Drug Courts Grant Program recipients in Kentucky:²⁴
 - \$500,000 to Administrative Office of the Courts for Trigg, Caldwell, Lyon and Livingston Counties for drug court implementation;
 - \$500,000 to Administrative Office of the Courts for Bourbon, Woodford and Scott Counties for drug court implementation;
 - \$500,000 to Administrative Office of the Courts for Greenup and Lewis County for drug court implementation
- There were no Kentucky recipients of the FY 2002 Community Oriented Policing Services Methamphetamine Grant.²⁵
- FY 2001 Housing and Urban Development Low Income Housing Drug Elimination Grant amount received in Kentucky:²⁶
 - \$175,218 to Jackson Woods Apartments, Louisville

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- Marijuana growers protect themselves and their crops with firearms, explosives, and booby traps, resulting in a rise in related crimes such as assaults, illegal possession of firearms, and murders. Marijuana growers operating on Federal land have verbally and physically assaulted visitors to Kentucky forests.²⁷
- The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) reported 289 drug violation arrests in Kentucky during 2001.²⁸

Number of DEA Drug Arrests, Kentucky, 1997-2001

Year	Drug Arrests
1997	304
1998	252
1999	261
2000	328
2001	289

- Between January 2000 and June 2001, sixty-nine of Kentucky's 1,000 pharmacies reported OxyContin-related burglaries or robberies.²⁹
- During 2000, there were 34,082 arrests for drug abuse violations in Kentucky.³⁰

Number of Drug Arrests, Kentucky, 2000

Drug Type	# of Arrests
Opium/cocaine and derivatives	6,962
Marijuana	11,131
Synthetic narcotics	1,418
Other dangerous non-narcotic drugs	14,571
Total drug arrests	34,082

- There were 15 juvenile and 239 adult arrests for murder in Kentucky during 2000.³¹

Number of Arrests, Selected Offenses, Kentucky, 2000

Type of Offense	Under 18	Adult
Murder/non-negligent manslaughter	15	239
Forcible rape	40	393
Robbery	113	1,214
Aggravated assault	332	4,340
Burglary	767	3,830
Larceny-theft	1,361	14,035
Motor vehicle theft	309	1,250
Arson	67	228
Driving under the influence	892	44,329
Liquor laws	220	3,950

Drugs

➤ Cocaine

Powder and crack cocaine are increasingly available, frequently abused, and pose the greatest threats to most metropolitan areas in Kentucky. The abuse of crack remains a problem in urban areas and is becoming more popular in suburban and rural areas. Law enforcement authorities indicate that cocaine abusers are increasingly purchasing powder cocaine and converting it to crack themselves as dealers attempt to avoid the stricter penalties associated with crack distribution. Powder cocaine sold for \$50-150 per gram during 2000.³²

➤ Heroin

Heroin poses a low threat to Kentucky because it is rarely available or abused in the state. The majority of the heroin available in Kentucky originates in Mexico. According to the DEA, a gram of heroin sold for \$100-300 in 2000 and \$300-400 per gram in 2001.³³

➤ Marijuana

Domestically grown marijuana is Kentucky's number one cash crop and is the most widely available and frequently abused illicit drug in the state.³⁴ Locally produced marijuana is generally available after the September/October harvest and through the winter months. Mexican-produced marijuana is used as a filler and supplement for the higher-grade locally produced marijuana after the previous season's supply has been exhausted. The statewide average price for marijuana is \$5 per gram.³⁵

➤ Methamphetamine

The level of methamphetamine production, distribution, abuse, and related violence has increased substantially in Kentucky, particularly in the rural areas of the state. A recent increase in locally produced methamphetamine may have eclipsed the amount of Mexican-produced methamphetamine transported into the state. The availability of methamphetamine continues to increase in Kentucky, particularly in the northern and western areas of the state that border the Ohio River Valley. Methamphetamine is increasingly popular among adolescents and young people at raves who use it to increase and prolong their energy levels. The statewide average price per gram in 2000 was \$106.³⁶

➤ **Club Drugs**

The use of MDMA and GHB is increasing throughout Kentucky, particularly among college students. LSD is available on a limited basis and is abused most frequently in urban centers, especially on college, university, and high school campuses.³⁷

➤ **Diverted Pharmaceuticals**

Throughout Kentucky, the use of diverted pharmaceuticals such as Lorcet, Lortab, and OxyContin continues to be a major problem. The primary source for most of the diverted pharmaceuticals are “doctor shoppers,” patients who visit multiple physicians to acquire numerous prescriptions. Sources for OxyContin also include Mexico and armed robberies of pharmacies. A growing trend is for individuals to travel out of state or to purchase the drugs over the Internet. The abuse of OxyContin has also led to an increase in Medicare/Medicaid fraud.³⁸

Juveniles

- A 2001 survey of Kentucky high school students showed that approximately 41% reported using marijuana at least once in their lifetimes.³⁹

Percent of High School Students Reporting Drug Use, Kentucky, 2001

Drug Type	Female	Male	Total
Lifetime marijuana use	36.7%	45.1%	40.5%
Current marijuana use	17.1	24.2	20.4
Lifetime cocaine use	6.3	8.8	7.5
Current cocaine use	3.1	4.6	3.8
Lifetime inhalant use	13.3	12.8	13.0
Current inhalant use	4.3	3.9	4.1
Lifetime heroin use	2.0	2.8	2.4
Lifetime methamphetamine use	8.8	10.7	9.7
Lifetime illegal steroid use	3.9	7.4	5.5
Lifetime injecting illegal drug use	2.0	3.3	2.7

- Approximately 55% of Kentucky 12th graders reported lifetime marijuana use.⁴⁰

Percent of High School Students Using Selected Drugs, by Grade, Kentucky, 2001

	9th	10th	11th	12th
Lifetime marijuana use	33.2	41.8	40.2	54.6
Past month marijuana use	17.9	24.3	17.2	25.7
Lifetime cocaine use	7.1	5.3	10.0	7.5
Past month cocaine use	3.4	2.1	6.0	3.4
Lifetime inhalant use	14.1	10.1	14.5	12.0
Past month inhalant use	4.8	3.7	3.6	4.0
Lifetime heroin use	2.2	2.6	2.4	2.3
Lifetime methamphetamine use	8.1	6.3	12.4	13.1
Lifetime steroid use	5.0	6.3	4.8	6.8
Lifetime injection of illegal drug	2.2	2.6	2.8	3.4

Enforcement

- As of October 31, 2001, there were 9,968 full-time law enforcement employees in Kentucky (7,651 officers and 2,317 civilians).⁴¹
- During 2000, there were 36 full-time law enforcement employees (32 officers and 4 civilians) working on drug task forces in Kentucky.⁴²

Trafficking and Seizures

- Drugs destined for distribution in Kentucky are transported primarily to Louisville, Lexington, and Covington, which serve as distribution centers for the state.⁴³
- According to the Kentucky State Police, there is an increasing number of mobile meth labs being transported in vans, trailers, and SUVs, helping the processors avoid detection. The number of busts involving these labs has increased more than 150% since 1999.⁴⁴
- Approximately 108 kilograms of cocaine were seized by Federal agencies in Kentucky during 2002.⁴⁵

Federal Drug Seizures, Kentucky, 2002

Drug Type	Amount (in Kgs.)
Cocaine	108.1
Heroin	0
Methamphetamine	23.1
Marijuana	6.3

- More than 378,000 cultivated marijuana plants were eradicated in Kentucky under the DEA's Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program in 2002.⁴⁶

Number of Marijuana Plants Eradicated and Seized, Kentucky, 2002

Outdoor Operations		Indoor Operations		Total
Plots Eradicated	Cultivated Plants Eradicated	Grows Seized	Plants Eradicated	Cultivated Plants Eradicated
7,803	373,117	41	4,919	378,036

- The Daniel Boone National Forest in eastern Kentucky is a favored spot for marijuana cultivation. The U.S. Forest Service classified 136 acres of the Forest as "impacted environmentally because of drug activity" during CY 2002. Approximately 102,300 marijuana plants were eradicated in the Forest in CY 2002.⁴⁷
- During 2002, law enforcement officials in Kentucky seized 300 methamphetamine laboratories (does not include dumpsites).⁴⁸

Number of Methamphetamine Labs Seized, Kentucky, 1999-2002

Year	Labs Seized
1999	84
2000	85
2001	147
2002	300

Courts

➤ Drug Courts⁴⁹

As of May 2003, there were 9 drug courts in Kentucky that had operating for over two years, 24 that were recently implemented, and 19 additional drug courts that were being planned.

➤ During FY 2001, 47.4% of the Federally-sentenced defendants in Kentucky committed a drug offense. Thirty-four percent of the drug cases involved marijuana.⁵⁰

Federally-Sentenced Drug Offenders, by Drug Type, Kentucky, FY 2001

Drug Type	Number	Percent
Marijuana	148	34.3%
Crack cocaine	94	21.8
Powder cocaine	77	17.8
Methamphetamine	50	11.6
Heroin	12	2.8
Other	51	11.8

➤ According to the Kentucky Administrator of the Courts, 410 individuals were charged with methamphetamine production in FY 1999. The number more than doubled to 839 in FY 2000.⁵¹

Corrections

➤ On January 1, 2003, there were 3,632 drug offenders in Kentucky Department of Corrections institutions, representing 23% of the 15,934 total population.⁵²

➤ During FY 2001-2002, the average daily probation population in Kentucky was 10,698 and the average daily parole population was 5,222.⁵³

Consequences of Use

➤ During 2001, there were 1,206 collisions in which the drivers were under the influence of drugs.⁵⁴ This is up from 990 such collisions in 2000.⁵⁵

Number of Drug-Related Collisions, Kentucky, 2001

Type of Collision	2000	2001
All collisions	990	1,206
Fatal collisions	133	127
Injury collisions	461	576
Persons killed	147	142
Persons injured	749	943

➤ From January 2000 through May 2001, the Kentucky State Medical Examiner's Office identified the presence of oxycodone in 69 deaths. The oxycodone levels were toxic in 36 of the deaths.⁵⁶

Treatment

- There were 26,345 admissions to treatment in Kentucky during 2002.⁵⁷ This is up from 25,428 admissions in 2001.⁵⁸ During 2000, there were 18,559 admissions to treatment in Kentucky.⁵⁹

Number of Admissions to Treatment, Kentucky, 2000-2002

Drug Type	2000		2001		2002	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Alcohol only	3,985	21.5%	5,495	21.6%	5,618	21.3%
Alc. w/ second. drug	2,884	15.5	4,214	16.6	4,409	16.7
Cocaine – smoked	607	3.3	979	3.9	1,534	5.8
Cocaine – other route	647	3.5	665	2.6	667	2.5
Marijuana	2,227	12.0	3,484	13.7	3,753	14.2
Heroin	110	0.6	169	0.7	220	0.8
Other opiates	494	2.7	954	3.8	1,128	4.3
PCP	3	0.0	4	0.0	2	0.0
Hallucinogens	20	0.1	28	0.1	23	0.1
Amphetamines	250	1.3	454	1.8	455	1.7
Other stimulants	27	0.1	39	0.2	34	0.1
Tranquilizers	201	1.1	435	1.7	406	1.5
Sedatives	26	0.1	28	0.1	31	0.1
Inhalants	18	0.1	29	0.1	30	0.1
Other/none specified	7,060	38.0	8,451	33.2	8,035	30.5
Total	18,559	100.0	25,428	100.0	26,345	100.0

Sources

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² Kentucky Governor's Office Web site: <http://gov.state.ky.us/>

³ Kentucky Lt. Governor Web site: <http://ltgov.state.ky.us/>

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